

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3273

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

UNCLAS BELGRADE 3279

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO US

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON YUGOSLAV UN MISSION BOMBING

REF: A. ZAGREB 0536 B. BELGRADE 3225

1. SUMMARY. SHORT ARTICLES ON INSIDE PAGES IN JUNE 25 YUGOSLAV DAILIES REPORT THAT GOY HAS MADE "SHARP" PROTESTS IN BELGRADE AND WASHINGTON OVER BOMBING OF YUGOSLAV UN MISSION. NUMEROUS ARTICLES (SOME PICTURES) AND EDITORIALS IN PRESS COMMENT ON INCIDENT, SOME SHARPLY CRITICIZING US FOR FAILING TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF TERRORIST ATTACKS ON YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATS. END SUMMARY,2

2. JUNE 25 ZAGREB VJESNIK CARRIES ARTICLE BY BUTORAC WHICH NOTES THAT RADIO STATIONS BROADCAST STATEMENTS BY EXTREMISTS OK H ALL COLORS

INCLUDING THOSE WHO PROPAGATE HATRED TOWARD YUGOSLAVIA. POLICE THEREFORE CAN'T SAY THAT THEY DO NOT KNOW WHO LEAD TERRORIST GROUPS. BUTORAC ALSO STATES THAT NY IS CENTER FOR ALL TYPES OF CRIMINALS BUT THAT IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR TERRORISM AGAINST DIPLOMATS. ARTICLE DESCRIBES WASHINGTON REACTION TO BOMBING AS "SHARP" COMPARED TO NY CITY'S REACTION. BUTORAC ARTICLE READ ON ZAGREB TV EVENING JUNE 24.

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3. VJESNIC EDITORIAL ENTITLED "EXPRESSION OF WEAKNESS" SAYS PERPETRATORS OF BOMBING ONLY CONFIRMED HOW MUCH YUGOSLAV POSITION IN WORLD AND NON-ALIGNED ROLE AFFECT THEM. EDITORIAL CONTINUES, "CERTAINLY TERRORISTS SHOULD NOT BE ABLE, EVEN IN NEW YORK, TO REPEAT ANTI-YUGOSLAV EXCESSES IF THEY HAD NOT TO A LARGE EXTENT TRIED TO ASSAULT NON-ALIGNMENT IN GENERAL AND DID NOT ENJOY AT LEAST THE TACIT TOLERATION OF THOSE WHO UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW ARE CALLED UPON AND OBLIGATED TO SECURE THE NORMAL WORK AND LIFE OF DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES."

4. JURIJ GUSTINCIC, NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT OF BELGRADE'S POLITIKA WRITES JUNE 25 THAT IT CANNOT BE DENIED THAT FEDERAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE PRIVATE INFORMATION ON SUCH AN UNSATISFACTORY SITUATION (AS BOMBING) -- "NOT ONLY IN THE YUGOSLAV CASE BUT WITH RESPECT TO SOME OTHER MISSION." HE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT NY CITY BUDGET IS TIGHT AND ONE USUALLY HEARS THAT 24-HOUR PROTECTION CANNOT BE PROVIDED BUT NOTES THAT HEAVILY ARMED POLICE HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO PROVIDE SECURITY IN NEW YORK SUBWAYS AND CONCLUDES THAT WHAT CAN BE DONE FOR MILLIONS OF DIPLOMATS AND SECURE YUGOSLAV MISSIONS. TERRORIST ACTS, HE WRITES, ARE DIRECTED AGAINST GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS, WHICH ARE IN INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES AS STATED IN DOCUMENTS COMMONLY ACCEPTED BY BELGRADE AND WASHINGTON. EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT WHERE AUTHORITIES ARE REALLY DETERMINED TO STOP TERRORISTS THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED,05#6-" :9.;7\$3 , "IN THE CASE OF AMERICA, TIME--WE ARE SORRY TO SAY--DEMONSTRATES THAT NOTHING HAS CHANGED. THUS THE RESPONSIBILITY AND OBLIGATION ARE ONLY ON HER SIDE."

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6. JUNE 26 EDITORIAL IN BELGRADE'S BORBA BY DJORDJE BOGOJEVIC LABELS BOMBING "MOST SERIOUS CRIME TO DATE", AND SAYS THAT YUGOSLAV PUBLIC IS EMBITTEGOD BY US APATHY IN FACE OF TERRORIST ATTACKS ON YUGOSLAVS AND OTHER FOREIGN REPS. BOGOJEVIC CONCLUDES THAT US IS OBLIGATED TO FIND THE GUILTY AND TAKE ALL MEASURES TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF TERRORISM. EDITORIAL ALSO SAYS IT IS OBVIOUS THAT PERPETRATORS OF ATTACKS ON YUGOSLAV AND OTHER FOREIGN MISSIONS ARE NOT JUST MEMBERS OF REACTIONARY EMIGRE ORGANIZATIONS BUT OF UNCLASSIFIED

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VARIOUS AMERICAN FASCIST AND OTHER TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, "THAT IS, AMERICAN CITIZENS".
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